

Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO:DMCCELLAN

APPROVED BY: IO:SWLEWIS

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 116393

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FOL REPEAT OF CAIRO 6473 TO SECSTATE MAY 11

QTE:

S E C R E T CAIRO 6473

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ANSC, EG, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

REF: STATE 114795

1. AFTER HIS BUSY DAY YESTERDAY, FAHMY DID NOT GO
TO THE OFFICE TODAY. THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED
ME AT HIS HOME SO THAT I COULD CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE TO
SADAT AND TO HIM.

2. AFTER READING IT CAREFULLY SEVERAL TIMES, HE
COMMENTED THAT OUR REPLY WAS JUST ABOUT WHAT HE HAD
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EXPECTED. OUR "UNDERSTANDING" OF LAST SEPTEMBER

WITH THE ISRAELIS HAS SHARPLY CURTAILED OUR FLEXIBILITY.
I POINTED OUT YOUR MESSAGE INDICATED THAT THIS IS A
PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR US. HE WOULD SURELY
APPRECIATE THE REASONS FOR THIS. FAHMY INSISTED
IT IS OUR "UNDERSTANDING" WITH THE ISRAELIS, AND
REPEATEDLY CAME BACK TO THIS. HE ALSO SHOWED SOME
SENSITIVITY TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE "SLAP"
AT SADAT, CLAIMING HE HAD NOT SAID THIS. (HE
DID, BUT THERE WAS NO PURPOSE TO PRESSING THE POINT.)
HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO SEND THAT
PARAGRAPH TO SADAT AND ASKED THAT I GIVE HIM A NEW COPY
OF THE MESSAGE WITHOUT THE PARAGRAPH. I SAID I WOULD
DO SO TOMORROW, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL SEND IT TO
THE PRESIDENT AT BURG EL-ARAB.

3. FAHMY SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH OUR ANALYSIS THAT
ABSTAINING ON A MODERATE UNSC RESOLUTION WOULD
COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM OF RENEWING THE UNDOF MANDATE
LATER THIS MONTH, SINCE THE SYRIANS COULD BE EXPECTED
TO INCREASE THEIR PRICE. IN HIS VIEW, IF WE ABSTAIN
ON A MODERATE RESOLUTION IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR US
TO TAKE A RIGID POSITION ON ANY SYRIAN RESOLUTION
IN CONNECTION WITH UNDOF UNLESS WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED
WITH THE SYRIANS TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE FOR UNDOF
RENEWAL. HE WONDERED IF WE MIGHT ALREADY HAVE AN
ARRANGEMENT WITH SYRIA ON UNDOF RENEWAL IN RETURN FOR
US SUPPORT OF SYRIAN ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON. I TOLD HIM
THIS WAS PATENTLY NOT THE CASE, BUT HE REMAINED
SKEPTICAL. HE CLAIMED SAUDI AND KUWAITI FONMINS HAD JUST
CONFIRMED HIS IMPRESSION.

4. I ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS NOT SOME WAY FOR GOE TO
ALLOW THE DEBATE TO END WITHOUT A RESOLUTION. HIS
INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN I
POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE HAD SOME REPORTS FROM
NEW YORK SUGGESTING THAT A BODY OF SENTIMENT MIGHT BE
GROWING, INCLUDING PERHAPS EVEN THE PLO REP TERZI,
THAT A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, FAHMY
UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THIS. HE INDICATED EGYPTIAN
PERMREP ABDUL MEGUID IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
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BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES
TODAY AND WILL PROBABLY GET IN TOUCH WITH SCRANTON IN
THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE WOULD TOMORROW SEND SUPPLEMENTARY
INSTRUCTIONS TO ABDUL MEGUID ASKING HIM TO EXPLORE INTERESTED
PARTIES' ATTITUDES ON A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME.
IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT SENTIMENT ALONG THESE LINES,
PERHAPS THE UNSC PRESIDENT COULD ARRANGE SUCH AN
OUTCOME BY A CONSENSUS.

5. IN THINKING FURTHER ABOUT THE MATTER, FAHMY ALSO BROACHED THE DESIRABILITY OF WALDHEIM CONVENING THE UNSC OR UNDOF, SY, TEN DAYS OR SO BEFORE THE MAY 30 DEADLINE. THIS WOULD HELP DIVERT ATTENTION FROM WEST BANK DEBATE AND MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOE AND OTHERS TO ACCEPT A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME. ALTHOUGH WALDHEIM IS NOW IN AFRICA ELECTIONEERING, HE ASKED THAT WE APPROACH THE SYG ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

6. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, FAHMY'S REACTION WAS RELATIVELY MILD. I SENSED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND A WAY OUT IF HE NOW COULD DO SO. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW MUCH SENTIMENT THERE IS IN UNSC ND AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES ON A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME. HIS SUSPICION ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND HE WONDERED SEVERAL TIMES WHY HE HAS NOT YET HEARD ANYTHING FROM US ON WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY DOING IN LEBANON. I SUSPECT SAUDI FONMI MAY HAVE TOLD HIM SOMETHING ABOUT OUR EXCHANGES WITH FAHD ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH MAY HAVE FURTHER AROUSED HIS SUSPICIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, LAND SETTLEMENT, PFOR, ANSC, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, UNSC RESOLUTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE116393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO:DMCLELLAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760004-0004
From: SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760562/aaaacaua.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 114795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EG, US, IS, JO, XF, UNSC, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006